

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-18 are pending, claims 6 and 14 having been amended as described herein.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 6-10 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Independent claim 6 has been amended to recite a processor as part of the character string data processing system and thereby overcome this rejection. This applies to claims 7-10 as well, as each of these claims is directly or indirectly dependent on claim 6.

Claims 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on the prior art described in the background section of applicants' specification in view of *Kukura* (of record). Independent claim 14 has been amended to overcome this rejection and place it in condition for allowance. Each of dependent claims 15 and 16 is allowable for at least the same reasons as independent claim 14.

The remaining claims, that is, claims 1-5, 11-13, 17, and 18, are allowed.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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